

1   **Claims 1 – 111 (canceled)**

1   **112. (currently Amended)** Apparatus for responding to a request, the request including  
2   one or more specifiers referring to objects belonging to a plurality of objects thereof in a  
3   distributed database system that includes a plurality of database systems, the plurality  
4   including a first database system and a second database system and the apparatus  
5   comprising:

6   |     ~~the first database system;~~  
7         a query analyzer that determines whether the request includes a specifier that  
8   cannot be interpreted in the first database system; and  
9         a redirector which responds to the request when the query analyzer determines  
10  that the request includes the specifier that cannot be interpreted in the first database  
11  system by causing the request to be executed at least in part in the second database  
12  system,  
13  the request being executed in the first database system when the query analyzer does not  
14  determine that the request includes the specifier that cannot be interpreted in the first  
15  database system.

1   **113. (previously presented)** The apparatus in accordance with claim 112 wherein:

2         the objects in the first database system include copies of objects contained  
3   in at least one other database system belonging to the distributed database system.

1   **114. (previously presented)** The apparatus in accordance with claim 113 wherein:

2         the first database system functions as a cache with regard to the objects whose  
3   copies are included in the first database system.

1   **115. (previously presented)** The apparatus in accordance with claim 113 wherein:

2         the other database system is the second database system.

1   **116. (previously presented)** The apparatus in accordance with claim 115 wherein:  
2       the first database system functions as a cache with regard to the second database  
3   system.

1   **117. (previously presented)** The apparatus in accordance with any one of claims 112,  
2   113, 114, 115, and 116 wherein:  
3       the apparatus is local to a server of the type that provides a program executing on  
4   the server with a standard interface for querying databases; and  
5       the requests include queries received via the standard interface.

1   **118. (previously presented)** The apparatus in accordance with claim 117 wherein:  
2       the server obeys the hypertext transfer protocol (http) and the program is a Web  
3   application program.

1   **119. (currently amended)** A method of responding to a request in a distributed database  
2   system that includes a plurality of database systems, the request including one or more  
3   specifiers that refer to one or more objects in ~~a the distributed database system that~~  
4   ~~includes a plurality of database systems, and~~ the plurality of database systems including  
5   a first database system and a second database system ~~and~~,  
6   the method comprising the steps of:  
7       ~~receiving the request in the first database system;~~  
8       determining whether the request includes a specifier that cannot be interpreted in  
9   the first database system; and  
10      causing the request to be executed at least in part in the second database system  
11   when the request includes the specifier that cannot be interpreted in the first database  
12   system.

1   **120. (previously presented)** The method in accordance with claim 119 wherein:  
2       the objects in the first database system include copies of objects contained in at  
3   least one other database system belonging to the distributed database system,

4 whereby the first database system functions as a cache with regard to the objects whose  
5 copies are included in the first database system.

1 **121. (previously presented)** The method in accordance with claim 120 wherein:  
2 the other database system is the second database system,  
3 whereby the first database system functions as a cache with regard to the second database  
4 system.

1 **122. (currently amended)** The method in accordance with any one of claims 119, 120,  
2 and 121 wherein:  
3 the first database system is local to a server of the type that provides a program  
4 executing on the server with a standard interface for querying databases; and  
5 ~~in the step of receiving the request, the request is received~~ made via the standard  
6 interface.

1 **123. (previously presented)** The method in accordance with claim 122 wherein:  
2 the server obeys the hypertext transfer protocol (http) and the program is a Web  
3 application program.

1 **124. (currently amended)** A computer readable medium with program instructions for  
2 memory device characterized in that:  
3 ~~the memory device contains code which, when executed in a processor, performs~~  
4 ~~a method of responding to a request in a distributed database system that includes a~~  
5 ~~plurality of database systems, the request including one or more specifiers that refer to~~  
6 ~~one or more objects in a the distributed database system that includes a plurality of~~  
7 ~~database systems, and the plurality of database systems including a first database system~~  
8 ~~and a second database system, and~~  
9 comprising the method comprising the steps of instructions for:  
10 receiving the request in the first database system;  
11 determining whether the request includes a specifier that cannot be interpreted in  
12 the first database system; and

13 causing the request to be executed at least in part in the second database system  
14 when the request includes the specifier that cannot be interpreted in the first database  
15 system.

1 **125. (previously presented)** Apparatus for caching copies of objects belonging to a  
2 subset of the objects belonging to a first database system that returns an object in  
3 response to a request therefor, the request including one or more specifiers referring to  
4 the objects and the apparatus comprising:

5 a second database system that contains the copies;  
6 a query analyzer that determines whether the request includes a specifier that  
7 cannot be interpreted in the second database system; and  
8 a redirector that responds to the request when the query analyzer determines that  
9 the request includes a specifier that cannot be interpreted in the second database system  
10 by causing the request to be executed at least in part in the first database system, the  
11 request being executed in the second database system when the query analyzer does not  
12 determine that the request includes the specifier that cannot be interpreted in the second  
13 database system.

1 **126. (previously presented)** The apparatus in accordance with claim 125 wherein:  
2 the apparatus is local to a server of the type that provides a program executing on  
3 the server with a standard interface for querying databases; and  
4 the requests include queries received via the standard interface.

1 **127. (previously presented)** The apparatus in accordance with claim 126 wherein:  
2 the server obeys the hypertext transfer protocol (http) and the program is a Web  
3 application program.

1 **128. (currently amended)** A method of responding to a request that includes one or  
2 more specifiers referring to one or more objects belonging to a set of objects  
3 where the objects are stored in a first database system and copies of a subset of  
4 the set of objects are stored in a second database system,

5 the method comprising the steps of: .  
6 ~~receiving the request in the second database system;~~  
7 determining whether the ~~received~~ request includes a specifier that cannot be  
8 interpreted in the second database system; and  
9 causing the request to be executed at least in part in the first database system  
10 instead of in the second database system when the request includes the specifier that  
11 cannot be interpreted in the second database system.

1 **129. (currently amended)** The method in accordance with claim 128 wherein:  
2 the second database system is local to a server of the type that provides a  
3 program executing on the server with a standard interface for querying databases; and  
4 ~~in the step of receiving the request, the request is received~~ made via the  
5 standard interface.

1 **130. (previously presented)** The method in accordance with claim 129 wherein:  
2 the server obeys the hypertext transfer protocol (http) and the program is a  
3 Web application program.

1 **131. (currently amended)** ~~A memory device characterized in that~~ computer readable  
2 medium with program instructions for:  
3 ~~the memory device contains code which, when executed in a processor, performs~~  
4 ~~a method of responding to a request that includes one or more specifiers referring to~~  
5 objects belonging to a set of objects where the objects are stored in a first database  
6 system and copies of a subset of the set of objects are stored in a second database system,  
7 the method comprising the steps of:  
8 ~~receiving the request in the second database system;~~  
9 determining whether the request includes a specifier that cannot be interpreted in  
10 the second database system; and

- 11           causing the request to be executed at least in part in the first database system
- 12   instead of in the second database system when the request includes the specifier that
- 13   cannot be interpreted in the second database system.